

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



in the application of
TODD M. BARANEK

Serial No. 09/840,288

Filed April 23, 2001

For HIGH DENSITY METAL OXIDE
FILLERS IN RUBBER COMPOUNDS

Group Art Unit 1714

E. Cain, Examiner

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RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 2, 2003, the Applicants,
through their attorney, respond as follows.

In the claims:

Please replace the following claims. A marked-up copy of the claims has been
attached hereto.

Please cancel claims 1-4 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 5 to read as follows:

5. (Amended) A method of using high density metal oxide fillers in rubber compounds,
comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a high density bismuth trioxide filler having a density of greater
than 5.7 g/cm³; and

(b) introducing the filler into a rubber elastomer for subsequent vulcanization
of such rubber compound.